REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi; Claims 1 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Iijima et al.; Claims 1 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Seiki et al.; Claims 2 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. in view of DePalma and Claims 3-5, 8-9 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. in view of Fujii et al.

Considering then the rejection of Claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al., the rejection of Claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Iijima, the rejection of Claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Seiki et al., the rejection of Claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Koboyashi et al. in view of DePalma, and the rejection of Claims 3-5, 8-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Koboyashi et al. in view of Fujii et al., it is to be noted that Claim 1 has now been amended so as to incorporate the limitations of Claims 3, 4 and/or 5 into Claim 1 and to amend Claim 6 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 8 and/or Claim 9. In this regard, Applicants note that a review of Koboyashi et al., Seikii et al., and Fujii et al. indicates that none of these references teaches or discloses a compressor driven by a steam turbine powered by steam which is generated by a first heat generator being capable of generating steam by exchanging heat between a synthetic gas synthesized by a reformer and water and/or by a second heat exchanger being capable of generating steam by exchanging heat with water in a convection unit, as recited in amended Claim 1 of the present application.

In addition, none of the references, i.e., Kobayashi et al., Seiki et al;. or Fujii et al. teaches providing a steam turbine which is powered by steam for driving a compressor wherein the steam is generated by exchanging heat between a synthetic gas synthesized by a reformer and water, and/or by exchanging heat with water in a convection unit, as recited in amended Claim 6 of the present application.

Furthermore, even if Kobayashi et al., Seiki et al. and Fujii et al. are combinable, there is no teaching that a compressor is driven by a steam turbine powered by steam, which is generated by a first heat exchanger being capable of generating steam by exchanging heat between a synthetic gas synthesized by a reformer and water/or by a second heat exchanger being capable of generating steam by exchanging heat with water in a convection unit, as recited in amended Claim 1 of the present application.

Likewise, even if Kobayashi et al., Seiki et al. and Fujii et al. are combined, there is no teaching for providing a steam turbine, which is powered by steam for driving a compressor, wherein the steam is generated by exchanging heat between a synthetic gas synthesized by a reformer and water, and/or by exchanging heat with water in a convection unit, as recited in amended Claim 6 of the present application.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that each of independent Claims 1 and 6 clearly patentably define over the prior art of record and the remaining references of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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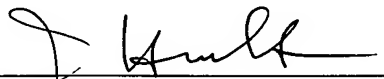

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